

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

#### ***Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-8 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Buechler (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,040). Applicants have amended claim 1 to more precisely define the layout of the stop valves and the side connecting channel. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to require that the first stop valve be located between the storage chamber and the reaction chamber and that the second stop valve be located between the reaction chamber and the exhaust chamber. Claim 1 also requires that the side connecting channel connect the first stop valve to the second stop valve. The Examiner states that the "side connecting channel is illustrated in Figures 1A and 1B as the channel connecting the stop valves/time gates (5 and 5a) which connects at least two stop valves/fingers (5 and 5a)." (p. 2). However, there appears to be no stop valve/time gate 5a in Figure 1A. In Figure 1B, there is no side connecting channel connecting stop valve/time gate 5 to stop valve/time gate 5a shown in Figure 1B. Rather, the only "channel" connecting stop valve/time gate 5 to stop valve/time gate 5a is the reaction chamber 4.

Further, the reaction chamber 4 of Buechler may not also be the side connecting channel. Claim 1 requires that a flow delay part be formed within the side connecting channel. The Examiner states that the "flow delay part" of claim 1 reads on the "sample reaction barrier 3" of Buechler. However, sample reaction barrier 3 is not "formed within [the] side connecting channel" as required by claim 1. Rather, sample reaction barrier 3 is formed between the reaction chamber 4 and sample addition reservoir 2. (Figure 1B).

Claims 2-8 and 11-16 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

#### ***Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Buechler. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 9 and 10 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 1 and

because Buechler does not teach or suggest at least the subject matter of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.


**Conclusion**

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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